Advisory committees on environment and forests

2174. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Committee on Environment and Forests are not being constituted regularly at Centre and the State Levels;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of rules and regulations for constitution of Advisory Committees, alongwith the tenure of the Committees;

(d) whether these rules are being followed in constitution of the committees by the States; and

(e) if not, the measures taken by the Government to ensure implementation of regulations?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests constitutes various expert and advisory committees from time to time at the central and state levels for overseeing the effective functioning of different schemes and programmes of the Ministry.

(c) to (e) The terms of reference of these committees depend on the specific mandate of the committee. The tenure normally ranges from 2-5 years. The committees have representation from academia, research institutions, Governmental and non-governmental organizations, depending upon the nature of the schemes/ programmes.

Fire in Sriharikota forests

2175. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge fire broke out in the forests of Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh, recently;

(b) if so, what were the causes of the fire and why Government had not taken early steps to control the fire; and

(c) what is the total estimated damage caused to its flora and fauna?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The forest department of the Government of Andhra Pradesh has intimated that a fire incident had occurred in Sriharikota on 6th July, 2001. The area in question is not under the control of forest department, as in January 1979 an area of 10232.16 hectare was dereserved and handed over to Sriharikota (SHAR) authorities. The fire was limited to burning up of dried leaves/bushes and branches only, covering an area of about 8 sq.km. The fire was caused due to natural reasons, and such cases occasionally occur in dry summer conditions. No tall trees were burnt and hence no appreciable damage to the flora and fauna of the area was caused.

Shifting polluting industries from Delhi

2176. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has recently warned the Government of NCT of Delhi in connection with implementation of its order banning polluting industries in the capital;

(b) if so, whether Government have provided any help to the State Government to shift polluting industries from the capital;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure that non-polluting industries are not harassed for the sake of polluting industries in the capital?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The orders of the Supreme Court are being implemented by the Government of NCT, Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the Delhi Development Authority under the supervision of the Union Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation. The Union Government has also interacted with the Governments of NCT and neighbouring States in connection with the shifting of identified industries. An Expert Committee has been set up by the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation to examine any